

10-13-00

A

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Under Small Entity Status

(New Nonprovisional Applications Under 37 CFR § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

438P786

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is the patent application of () application identifier or (X) first named inventor, James P. Romano, entitled Credit Card Verifying Apparatus, for a(n):

() Original Patent Application.

(X) Continuing Application (prior application not abandoned):

() Continuation () Divisional () Continuation-in-part (CIP)
of prior Application No. 60/158,432, filed on October 12, 2000.

(X) A statement claiming priority under 35 USC § 120 has been added to the specification.

Enclosed are:

(X) Specification; 4 Total Pages.(X) Drawing(s); 1 Total Sheets.

(X) Oath or Declaration:

(X) A Newly Executed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney:

(X) Signed. () Unsigned. () Partially Signed.

() A Copy from a Prior Application for Continuation/Divisional (37 CFR § 1.63(d)).

() Incorporation by Reference. The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

() Signed Statement Deleting Inventor(s) Named in the Prior Application. (37 CFR § 163(d)(2)).

() Power of Attorney.

(X) Return Receipt Postcard.

() Associate Power of Attorney.

(X) A Check in the amount of \$395 for the Filing Fee.

() Preliminary Amendment.

(X) Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449.

() A Certified Copy of Priority Documents (if foreign priority is claimed).

(X) Statement(s) of Status as a Small Entity.

() Statement(s) of Status as a Small Entity Filed in Prior Application, Status Still Proper and Desired.

(X) Other: Assignment

CLAIMS AS FILED

FOR	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA	RATE	FEE
Total Claims	12	0	\$9.00	\$0.00
Independent Claims	2	0	\$40.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claim Fee (if applicable)				\$0.00
Assignment Recording Fee (if applicable)				\$40.00
Basic Filing Fee				\$355.00
Total Filing Fee				\$395.00

Please charge \$_____ to Deposit Account No. 50-0576 pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.25. At any time during the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to this Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for fee processing against this Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

George R. McGuire, Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 36603

Date:

10/12/00

HANCOCK & ESTABROOK, LLP
1500 MONY Tower I PO Box 4976
Syracuse, NY 13221-4976
Phone: 315-471-3151
Fax: 315-471-3167

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Honorable Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231

By:

George R. McGuire
Typed Name: George R. McGuire
Express Mail Label No.: EJ847761196US
Date of Deposit: October 12, 2000

JC915 U.S. PTO

09/689128

10/12/00

00689128-104200

JC945 U.S. PTO
10/12/00

**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c)) -- SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

Docket Number (Optional)
438P786

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Philip D. Anderson et al.

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: _____

Title: Credit Card Verifying Apparatus

I hereby state that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Crediport Systems, Inc.

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN 6489 Ridings Rd. Syracuse, NY 13206

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Questions related to size standards for a small business concern may be directed to: Small Business Administration, Size Standards Staff, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☐ the application identified above.
☐ the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such persons, concerns, or organizations exist.
☐ each such person, concerns, or organization is listed below:

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Philip D. Anderson

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 6489 Ridings Rd., Syracuse, NY 13206

SIGNATURE

Philip D. Anderson

DATE

October 9, 2000

Application of: James P. Romano and Philip D. Anderson

For: Credit Card Verifying Apparatus

Cross-Reference To Prior Application

The present application claims priority of U.S. provisional application serial number
5 60/158,432 filed October 12, 1999.

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to novel configuration of electronic communications apparatus, and more particularly to the field of apparatus having wireless credit card verification ability with long, DC powered operating life.

10 In many types of commercial transaction services are provided at, or products are
delivered to a location where the customer is located, but which is remote from the usual
business premises of the vendor. It is desirable in such situations that the delivery person or
service provider have a portable and wireless means of verifying authorized credit access and
accepting credit payment from the customer at the latter's location. An example of such
15 equipment is found in U.S. Patent No. 5,334,842 of Martinez, issued August 2, 1994. This
equipment operates from the DC power supply provided by the standard, built-in batteries which
are removably positioned in and provide operating power to the cellular phone, requiring
frequent recharging of the batteries in high volume applications. There is also the necessity in
the usual apparatus of this type of providing terminal-to-phone interface circuitry.

20 Summary of the Invention

In a first embodiment, the apparatus of the present invention consists basically of a credit card terminal, a cellular telephone, a terminal/phone interface, a rechargeable battery power

supply and, preferably portable recharging equipment. The terminal is of a commercially available type and is connected to, or preferably includes, a printer. The cell phone is also conventional and is connected to the terminal via a direct connection of the terminal's RS 232 output port and the cell phone's RS 232 serial input port, providing direct digital/digital interface. The phone may be operated for a time by power from its built-in batteries, but is operated at least some times while connected to the portable power supply, thus simultaneously providing operating power to the phone and charging power to its batteries from the portable power supply. All elements of the apparatus may be conveniently package for portable use in a novel configuration upon a pair of mounting plates.

The RS 232-configured serial input port of the cell phone is normally used for connect to a hand set and the RS 232 digital output port of the terminal is normally intended for connection to the serial port on a laptop or desktop computer. In a second disclosed embodiment, the cell phone/radio is connected directly to the microcontroller of the terminal, thereby eliminating the need for the interface circuitry and modem. That data is exchanged directly between the terminal and phone via this connection.

Brief Description of the Drawing

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating the components of the apparatus and their interconnection in a first embodiment;

Figure 2 is a plan view of certain elements of the apparatus in a preferred mounting arrangement;

Figure 3 is an end view of the elements of Figure 2 and additional elements completing the basic units of the apparatus in the preferred mounting arrangement of this embodiment of the

invention; and

Figure 4 is a block diagram illustrating the components of a second embodiment of the invention and their manner of interconnection.

Detailed Description

Referring now to the drawing, the preferred components and electrical interconnection thereof are shown in block diagram form. Reference numeral 10 denotes an entirely conventional cellular telephone having the usual batteries within the phone housing for providing operating power to the phone for, at most, a few hours of on-line time. Cell phone 10 is connected, during at least some of its operating time, to external battery 12 which may be recharged by insertion of plug 14 into an automobile cigarette lighter receptacle, or by insertion of plug 16 into a standard, 110 v AC wall receptacle.

Data terminal 18 is also a conventional item and includes the usual slot or groove for swinging a magnetically coded credit card and/or other credit data entry means. Printer 20 is a preferably connected to, or built into, terminal 18 to provide a permanently printed record of transactions at sites where conducted. Battery 12 also provides DC operating power to terminal 18 and printer 20. Cell phone 10 and terminal 18 are connected to one another through interface 11, also a conventional piece of equipment.

A preferred mounting arrangement for the above-described components is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. Cell phone 10, battery 12 and interface 22 are either permanently or removably mounted upon a flat, bottom plate 24. Top plate 26 covers cell phone 10 and interface 22, and terminal 18 is mounted on the side of top plate 26 opposite cell phone 10. Printer 20 covers

battery 12 and a portion of top plate 26 on the side opposite interface 22. Using present, commercially available components, bottom plate 24 may be on the order of 8 by 10 inches, and top plate 26 on the order of 8 by 7 inches. The entire assemblage of components may have a weight of a few pounds and may be carried in a backpack or pouch with shoulder strap.

5 Turning now to Figure 4, the invention is shown in another embodiment wherein a single data terminal 28 includes cellular radio/telephone 30, microcontroller 32 and printer and/or other peripheral equipment 34. Data is passed directly between phone 30 and controller 32, thereby eliminating the need for interface circuitry and modem which are employed in the preceding embodiment. This reduces both the cost and power requirements of the system.

What is Claimed is:

1 1. Portable credit card verification apparatus comprising:
2 a) a cellular radio/telephone having a built-in power supply for operation over a limited
3 time period;
4 b) a data terminal including credit data entry means;
5 c) a cellular interface through which said radio/telephone and said data terminal are
6 operatively connected;
7 d) a rechargeable DC battery external to both said radio/telephone and said data terminal;
8 and
9 e) wiring connecting said DC battery to both said radio/telephone and said data terminal
10 to supply operating power to both said radio/telephone and said data terminal, thereby extending
11 said limited time period of operation.

12 2. The apparatus of claim 1 and further including at least one peripheral device
13 connected to said data terminal and further wiring connecting said peripheral device to said DC
14 battery to supply operating power to said peripheral device.

15 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said peripheral device is a printer.

16 4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said data entry means comprises a reader for data
17 magnetically coded on a credit card.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 2 and further including a first, essentially flat, rigid plate and
2 means for mounting said radio/telephone, said interface and said DC battery on said first plate.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 3 and further including a second, essentially flat, rigid plate in
2 covering relation to at least portions of said radio/telephone and said interface on the opposite
3 side thereof from said first plate, and means for mounting said data terminal and at least a portion
4 of said peripheral device on said second plate on the opposite side thereof from said
5 radio/telephone and said interface.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said first and second plates have substantially the
2 same width and said first plate has a length greater than the length of said second plate.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the length of said second plate is about 70% of the
2 length of said first plate.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein a first portion of said printer is superposed with at
2 least a portion of said interface with a portion of said second plate interposed therebetween, and a
3 second portion of said printer is superposed directly with at least a portion of said battery without
4 interposed structure.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the maximum of said width is less than 12 inches.

1 11. Portable apparatus for wireless transmission and verification of credit card data, said
2 apparatus comprising:

3 a) a cellular radio/telephone;

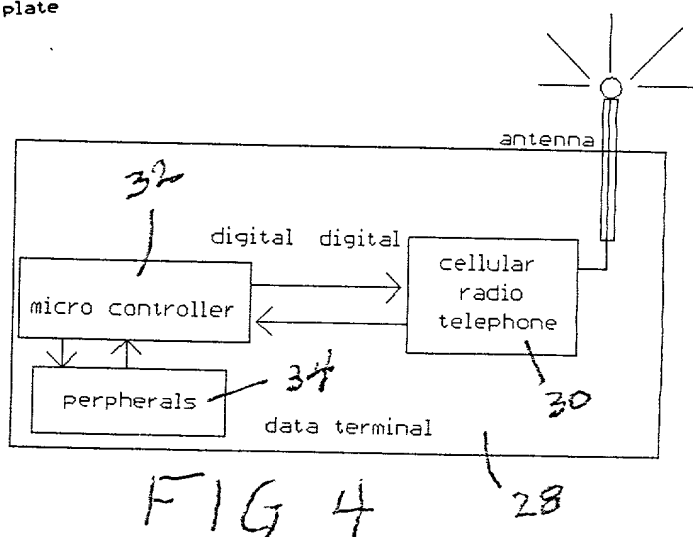
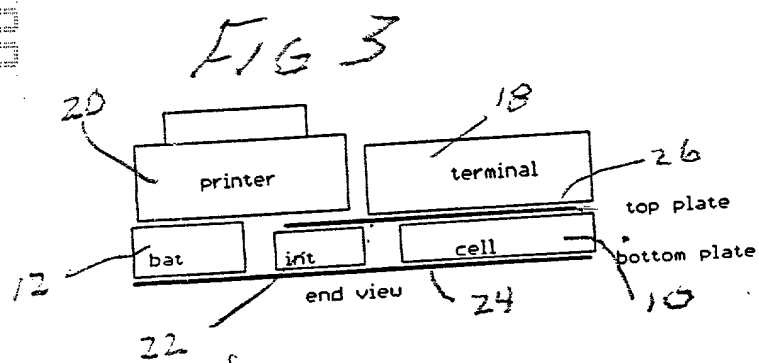
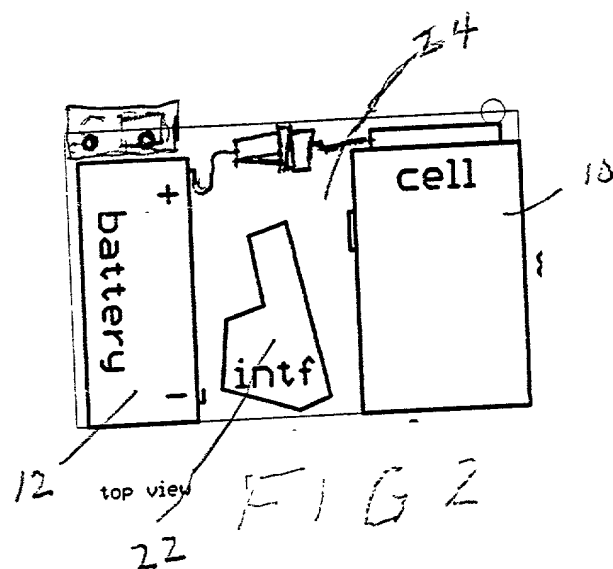
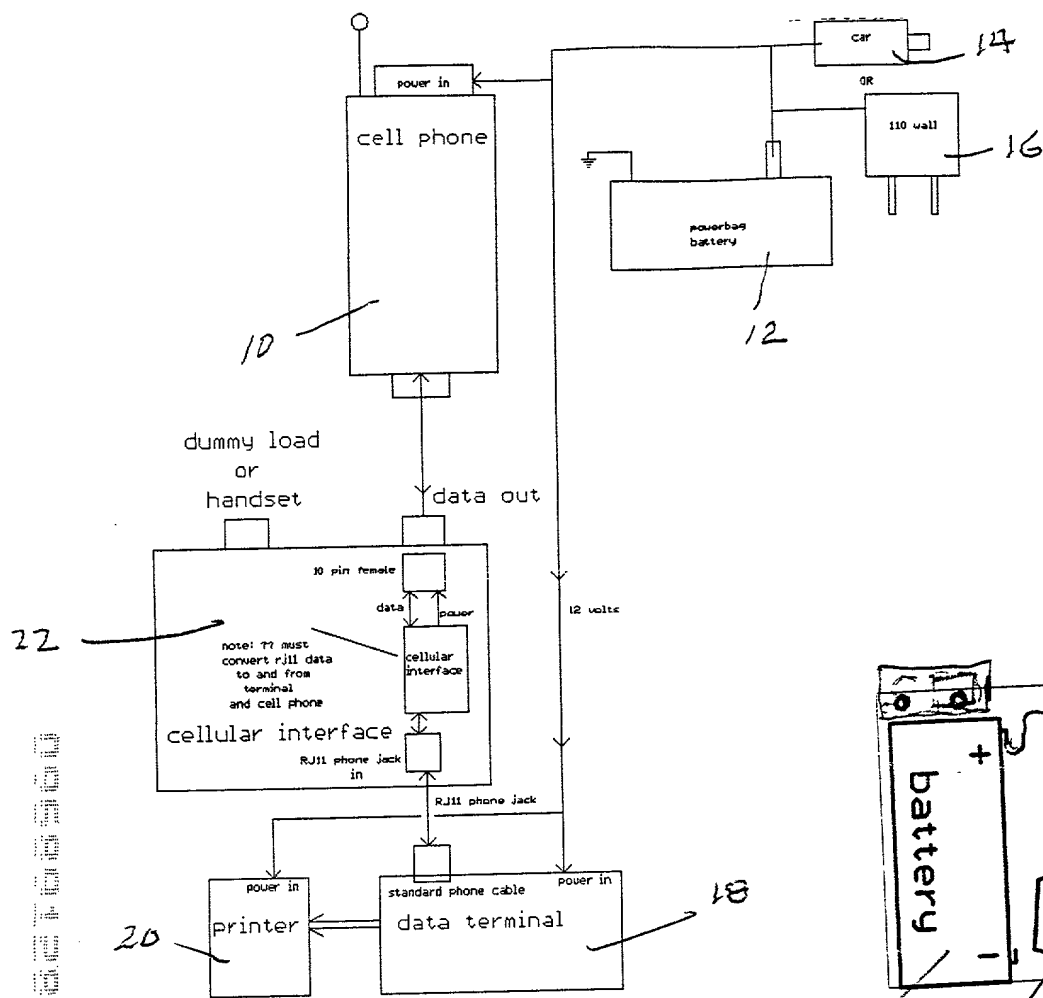
4 b) a data terminal including a microcontroller;

5 c) a power supply providing operating power to said radio/telephone and said terminal;

6 and

7 d) wiring connecting said radio/telephone directly to said microcontroller for digital-
8 digital communication of data directly between said terminal and radio/telephone.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 and further including a printer electrically connected to
2 said microcontroller.



PATENT APPLICATION

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 438P786

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence/post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: Credit Card Verifying Apparatus the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ was filed on _____ as US Application Serial No. or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

Foreign Application(s) and/or Claim of Foreign Priority

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor(s) certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor(s) certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
			YES: _____ NO: _____
			YES: _____ NO: _____

Provisional Application

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE
60/158,432	10/12/1999

U.S. Priority Claim

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS(patented/pending/abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY:

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) listed below to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

George McGuire, Reg. No. 36,603
James R. Muldoon, Reg. No. 38,249
August E. Roehrig, Reg. No. 22,667
Charles S. McGuire, Reg. No. 20,385

Send Correspondence To:	Direct Telephone Calls To:
George R. McGuire HANCOCK & ESTABROOK, LLP 1500 MONY Tower I PO Box 4976 Syracuse, NY 13221-4976	George R. McGuire 315-477-3151

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Inventor: James P. Romano

Citizenship: USA

Residence: 2112 East Colvin Street, Syracuse NY 13210

Post Office Address: Same

Inventor's Signature

Date

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION (continued)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 438P786

Full Name of Inventor: Philip D. Anderson

Citizenship: USA

Residence: 4191 Fireside Circle, Liverpool NY 13090

Post Office Address: Same

Inventor's Signature

Philip D. Anderson

Date

October 12, 2000